



Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45. The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) nominates Ms. Boni R. Ellis and Mr. Eugene Anthony (Tony) Fay to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors.

NRHA is a member-driven organization that represents over 3000 rural hospitals, health centers, and clinicians. We serve as *the* voice for rural health care in America. Many of our members would be eligible to receive discounts that are reserved for health care providers, so we are nominating for the "representative for rural health care providers that are eligible to receive discounts."

The resumes of both Ms. Ellis and Mr. Fay are attached. As you will see, both of these individuals are very experienced in the provision of rural health care. Ms. Ellis, in particular, has an in-depth knowledge of telehealth and telecommunications in rural areas.

We appreciate your consideration of both of these candidates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shelly Ten Napel of NRHA at (703) 519-7910 or tennapel@NRHArural.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen D. Wilhide".

Stephen D. Wilhide, MSW, MPH
Executive Director, NRHA

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

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Boni R. Ellis

Alliance Information Management, Inc.
2901 34th Ave SW Suite 369
Fargo, ND 58104

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www.aimpros.com
701-235-8600

Professional Experience Summary:

Ms. Ellis has over 20 years of experience in the healthcare and telecommunications industries. Prior to joining Alliance Ms. Ellis was a telecommunications manager for a 34-site health system with responsibility for all voice applications, voice, data, and video network, emergency procedures, on call procedures, and mailroom. Ms. Ellis has extensive experience in system selection and interim management and has successfully implemented call centers, placing a strong focus on exemplary service to all customers. Ms. Ellis specializes in attaining funding support for healthcare organizations via the Rural Healthcare Care Division (RHCD) funding program, and assists clients reduce costs through engagements in telecommunications auditing and cost management.

Projects and Accomplishments:

- Selected and installed over 25 phone systems. This included systems ranging from six stations to 10,000 stations. 14 of the sites were integrated with 4-digit dialing and a call center.
- Implemented a voice, data, video network that grew from a single T1 to an OC3 (84 T1's). The network was built with redundancy to include two points of entry, accuring, UPS, generators, and an emergency backup system.
- Integrated hospital and clinic telecommunications, which included centralization of technology, support, call center, decision-making, budget, and overcoming organizational barriers.
- Developed a real time online on call system for physicians and other support staff.
- Implemented alarm system monitoring for sites through out the United States for emergency situations such as fire, flood, and medical emergencies.
- Implemented a monitoring and dispatch center for lifeline patients, contacting and dispatching appropriate assistance if necessary.
- Negotiated contract for long distance services, reducing rate by 34% or a total savings of \$540,000 over the five-year contract.
- Negotiated network contract to reduce rates by 36%, which resulted in \$480,000 in savings over the five-year contract.

- Applied and received Universal Service Rural Health Care Division funding for six years totaling over \$1.4 million.
- Developed Service Level Agreements for centralized information technology and telecommunication services provided to affiliate and non-affiliate sites.
- Provided pre-market product evaluation and testing for telecommunication vendors.
- Developed an internal routing system for mail that was incorporated with the US Postal Service System.
- Telecommunications audit which resulted in credits as well as future savings.
- Developed and presented Customer Service training to all affiliates sites.
- Developed, presented, and monitored Customer service standards for 34 sites.
- Participated in the development of a telemedicine network to 13 sites that included affiliate and non-affiliated sites.
- Successfully managed an annual budget of \$2 million.

Speaking Engagements:

- Presentation (confirmed and in development) on Universal Service Rural Health Care Division (RHCD) Funding at the Health Information Management System Society conference in February of 2004.
- On-demand Web cast for Association of Telemedicine Service Providers (ATSP) on RHCD Funding (available August/September 2003)
- Session in Conference Call Series by National Rural Health Association on RHCD Funding. (July 2003)
- Presentation on telehealth at the Concordia College Spring Healthcare Institute. (April 2003)
- Presentation on RHCD Funding in LA sponsored by LA Office of Rural Health and the LA Hospital Association. (October 2002)
- Presentation on RHCD Funding in MS sponsored by the MS Primary Care Association, MS Office of Rural Health, and the MS Hospital Association. (July 2002)

Publications:

- Mississippi Primary Care Newsletter (August 2002)
- Policy Brief for NRHA Policy Board (May 2003)
- Minnesota Physician (December 2002)
- National Rural Health Association (June 2002)
- Minnesota Department of Health web site (April 2002)

Affiliations and Offices Held:

- HIMSS Member (1998 – present)
- NRHA Policy Task Force (2003 -present)
- National Rural Health Association Member (2002-present)
- Member of United States Postal Advisory Board (1996-2002)
- President of local Avaya Users Group (1991-2001)
- Avaya User Group Future Needs Committee (1994-1998)
- Co-chair of Avaya Regional Users Group (1994-1997)
- Member of Corporate Culture Task force for Merge of Hospital and Clinic (1992-1995)

Education and Training:

- Valley City State College (1967-1968)
- Moorhead State University (1969-1970, 1998-2000)
 - Business Administration Major
- University of Minnesota / Business and Teams Consulting
 - Systems Thinking
- AT&T Communications
 - Audix Voice Mail System Programming
 - PBX System 85 Programming
 - PBX System 75 Programming
- AVAYA Communications
 - Definity Programming

Resume

Eugene Anthony (Tony) Fay
1008 Lucas Ct.
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027-5446

Home phone: 615.370.9281
Office phone: 615.376.7268
Cell phone: 615.504.4127
Office fax: 615.370.9539

Summary

Over twenty years of experience in healthcare financial management with specific emphasis on third-party reimbursement, Medicaid payment systems design, Medicaid DSH consulting, state and federal government relations, certificates of need, bond issues and stock offerings.

Employment History (*annotated to reflect only governmental and Medicaid experience*)

March 2000 – present: Vice President of Government Affairs, Province Healthcare Company, 105 Westwood Place, Suite 400, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, phone 615.370.1377. Contact Marty Rash; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

- Directs Province's government relations activities at the federal and state level.
- Works with individual hospitals on issues of state concern, including Medicaid, licensing, building and life safety codes and certificate of need.
- Current member of U.S. Department of Health & Human Services "Secretary's Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform."

March 1997 - present: Vice President of Reimbursement, Province Healthcare Company, 105 Westwood Place, Suite 400, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, phone 615.370.1377. Contact Marty Rash; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

- Managerial responsibility for Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, managed care contracting and reporting, licensure and certification, financial reporting with respect to third-party reimbursement and reimbursement systems implementation.
 - Designed, developed and implemented a streamlined third-party contractual system requiring less time to use but ensuring better financial reporting data and accurate financial statements.
 - Simplified cost reporting process. Established detailed procedures to ensure compliance with regulations and laws concerning the preparation of cost reports. Re-engineered cost reporting process to eliminate duplicate and unnecessary work.
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June 1994 - March 1997: Assistant Vice President of Development, Tenet Healthcare Corporation (f/k/a OrNda HealthCorp), P.O. Box 1200, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.1200, phone 615.383.8599. Contact: Jim Johnston, Vice President, Human Resources. (Note: Jim Johnston is now with Vanguard Health Systems, phone 615.665.6000)

July 1983 - July 1994: Ernst & Young, 1900 AmSouth/Harbert Plaza, Birmingham, Alabama, phone 205.251.2000, most recent position - Senior Manager, Healthcare Consulting Group. Contact: Larry Harris, Principal.

- Developed and led implementation of current Medicaid hospital payment system for state of Alabama.
- Directed an intensive fraud investigation on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia Attorney General's office.

June 1977 - July 1983: various positions, Ernst & Ernst/Ernst & Whinney and University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Educational History

- June 1982, Master of Business Administration, University of Alabama in Birmingham.
- June 1977, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, Birmingham-Southern College.

Professional Certifications

Certified Public Accountant (Alabama)
Diplomate, American College of Healthcare Executives
Fellow, Healthcare Financial Management Association
Committee Chairman, Federation of American Hospitals Legislative Committee
Board Member, National Rural Health Association
Member, Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants
Member, Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants

Personal

Wife, Jaydie; three children. Hobbies include golf, camping, outdoor activities.
Scout leader, Pack 298, Middle Tennessee Council, Natchez Trace District
